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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/073,999	02/14/2002	Ken Takeuchi	001701.00140	9741

22907 7590 05/11/2004

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EXAMINER

HO, HOA1 V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2818

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

rfu

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/073,999	Applicant(s) TAKEUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Hoai V. Ho	Art Unit 2818	

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 March 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 47-67 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 47-67 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/667,610.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is responsive to communication(s) filed on March 22, 2004.
2. Claims 47-~~67~~ are presented for examination.

Applicant needs to resubmit a listing of claims because amended claims 47, 48, 59, and 55-57 cannot read the newly added words after they have been scanned because those newly added words are not inked enough black for scanning.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 47-67 are rejected for the same reason as set forth in the previous Office action except for the newly added limitation a "second signal line connected to said second memory cell section, being different from said first signal line" to independent claims 47, 48, 59, and 55-57. Figure 8 of Hemink discloses the second signal line (a section of M1-M4 connects to a transistor S2 of a lower block) connected to said second memory cell section, being different from said first signal line (a section of M1-M4 connects to a similar transistor as S2 of an upper block). See column 9, line 3 to line 12.

5. Claims 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakui et al. U. S. Patent No. 6307807.

Figure 38 of Sakui is directed to a nonvolatile semiconductor memory comprising: a first memory cell section (MEMORY CELL UNIT BLi) including a first memory cell; a second memory cell section (MEMORY CELL UNIT /BLi) including a second memory cell; a first signal line (BLi) connected to said first memory cell; a second signal line (/BLi) connected to said second memory cell, being different from the first signal line; and a data latch circuit (SENSE AMPLIFIER) connected to one ends of said first and second signal lines and including a latch circuit; wherein first program/read data of said first memory cell (controlling by a signal ϕa) is latched in said latch second program/read data of said second memory cell is held by said second signal line (controlling by a signal ϕb).

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure. Shibata et al. USP 6122193 in Figure 40, Tanaka et al. USP 5969985 in Figures 61-63 at least, Takeuchi et al. USP 5920507 in Figures 29 and 34 disclose a nonvolatile semiconductor memory device.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that "... according to Hemink et al, the first and second signal lines ... are in fact the same line." The Examiner disagrees with this statement, because Figure 8 of Hemink discloses that the first signal line belongs to the upper block of the memory cells and connects to the bit line BL by a switch such as S2 in the lower block; and the second signal line belongs to the lower block and connects to the bit line BL by a switch S2.

Figure 38 of Sakui, in view of the new ground of rejection, also discloses; a first signal line (BLi) connected to said first memory cell; a second signal line (/BLi) connected to said second memory cell, being different from the first signal line.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained. Feature of an invention not found in the claims can be given no patentable weight in distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. When responding to the office action, Applicants are advised to provide the examiner with the line numbers and page numbers in the application and/or references cited to assist the examiner to locate the appropriate paragraphs.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to whose telephone number is (571) 272-1777. Other inquiries of this application should be called to (571) 272-1562 or the fax number (703) 872-9306.

Art Unit: 2818

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



H. Ho
April 21, 2004



Hoai V. Ho
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2818